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Miyamoto Kano's

REPLAY

CALLING

volume3
chapter1

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Liquid Eros Needs Your Help -
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Calling Series

Living in days of change. 32 pages

リプレイ
Replay

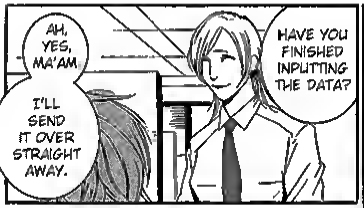
宮本佳野
Miyamoto Kano

We can't just keep ourselves hidden.
Now's the time to step out!

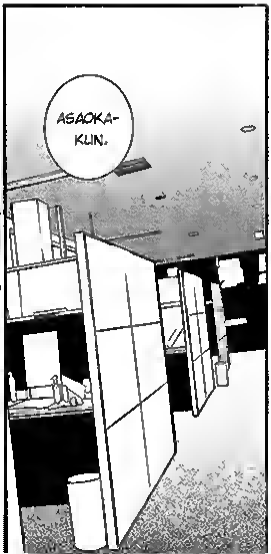
ASSISTANT SECTION CHIEF TAKANO'S ON ANOTHER BUSINESS TRIP AGAIN, ISN'T HE?
I HEARD HE WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE ACADEMY AT QUANTICO* THIS TIME?
THAT'S RIGHT
LOOKS LIKE HE'LL BE GONE QUITE SOME TIME
SO THAT RUMOUR MIGHT BE TRUE, AFTER ALL?
I'M NOT SURE
I HOPE IT IS, THOUGH...

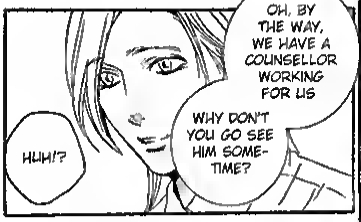
I haven't talked with TJ since the day I got captured by Habu
I thought they'd fire me for that blunder for sure,
but he must have put in a good word for me, since I got off with nothing but a light reprimand.
SO HE WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE...
I never got a chance to talk to him before he left for America.
I wish I knew what he thought
about the words I told him that night?
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU...

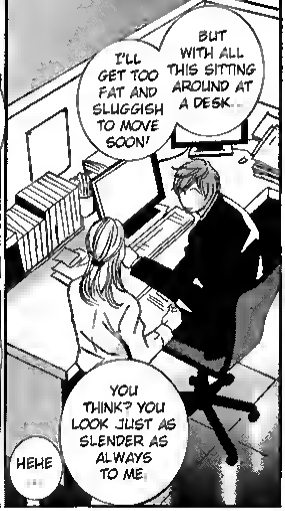
That was really stupid of me.
My feelings will just be a burden for him...

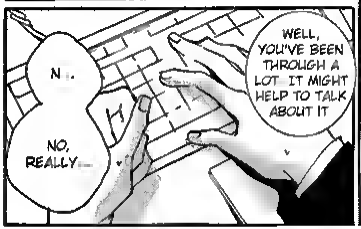

HAVE YOU FINISHED INPUTTING THE DATA?
AH, YES, MA'AM.
I'LL SEND IT OVER STRAIGHT AWAY.

YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER AT IT, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU'VE CAUGHT UP ON ALL YOUR OFFICE SKILLS NOW!
I'm sensei dearing
N-NOT REALLY
I STILL HAVE A WAY TO GO


ASAOKA-KUN.


OH, BY THE WAY, WE HAVE A COUNSELLOR WORKING FOR US
WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE HIM SOMETIME?
HUH!?


I'LL GET TOO FAT AND SLUGGISH TO MOVE SOON!
BUT WITH ALL THIS SITTING AROUND AT A DESK...
HEHE
YOU THINK? YOU LOOK JUST AS SLENDER AS ALWAYS TO ME.


WELL, YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT. IT MIGHT HELP TO TALK ABOUT IT
N..
NO, REALLY...

REALLY?
THAT'S OKAY, THEN
I'M TOTALLY FINE
I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT MOST OF IT.
YEAH
THANKS, MA'AM.
LET ME KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU CAN GET COUNSELLING ANY TIME YOU WANT.
Actually,
beep

my run-in with Habu seems to have affected me more than I thought.
It's pathetic, but...
every time I think of what happened, I start shaking.
Since the incident
there hasn't been any activity from Habu or his group.
My shot definitely hit him, but...
where has that strange but vicious criminal vanished to?
...
I'm scared...

But this is something
I need to overcome
by myself...
OH HEY, IT'S NISHIKIORI!
YOU'VE RE-APPEARED!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES.
EHEHE.
I FINALLY MADE IT BACK...

BUT I'VE GOT TO SET OFF FOR KANSAI AGAIN SOON.
SO I CAN'T STAY LONG.
YOU'VE REALLY BECOME THE CHIEF'S FAVOURITE HAVEN'T YOU?
HE'LL SEND YOU ALL OVER THE PLACE ON ASSIGNMENTS NOW!
STAARRE
CHATTER
STAARRE
turn

WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE?
FINE, SEE IF I CARE!
THUNK
SHIT!
crumple
grrrr
glance

...LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE REALLY THROWING YOURSELF INTO YOUR WORK THESE DAYS...
YOU THINK?
WELL, YOU'RE CONSTANTLY GONE ON ASSIGNMENTS...
BE CAREFUL NOT TO OVERDO IT, YOU HEAR?
I'M STILL YOUNG, SO I CAN TAKE IT.
YEAH, YEAH.
WANT TO GO EAT OUT SOMEWHERE?
HN... NOT TODAY...
...WHAT'S WRONG?

HMM
HAVE YOU MADE UP WITH OUR STRAIGHT-LACED RED-HEAD YET?
NOTHING...
DUNNO...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAD A PROPER FIGHT OR ANYTHING.
NO?
THE TWO OF US ARE PRETTY DIFFERENT, SO...
HE'S A GOOD KID DON'T YOU WANT TO STAY FRIENDS?
...AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
...WHAT ABOUT YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
OH, KEIGO?
I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO SEE HIM IN AGES, EITHER.
...YEAH...

HEY COMMANDER...
HMM?
THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT, AFTER ALL...
...I GUESS NOT.
BUT AT LEAST YOU STILL HAVE ME.
YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD LITTLE POLICE OFFICER, AREN'T YOU?
NH...
THAT'S CUZ I REALLY LIKE MY JOB.
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON?
HOW COME THE LEFT WING EXTREMISTS ARE BEING SO QUIET?
IS THIS REALLY THE BEST TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT WORK?
YUP.
What cuties!?
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOY! ♡
HEY, QUIT TREATING ME LIKE A KID!
HAHA...

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S AFOOT.
HAS TJ SAID ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
THAT OLD MAN'S BEEN IN AMERICA THIS WHOLE TIME.
...YOU SHOULDN'T CALL YOUR SUPERIOR THAT, YOU KNOW...
SIGH
GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT, SIR. SEE YOU TOMORROW.
HAAH...
DAMN. ANOTHER EVENING WITH NOTHING TO DO...
STRETCH
SLAM

HEY, YOU!
WARGH!
CLEEP
KEEP NICE AND QUIET, COPPER!
GET IN THE VAN!
!
SHH!
JUST HURRY AND GET IN ALREADY!
SHOVE
Y-YOU'RE ONE OF HABU'S—
OW!

SHUT
HUH!?
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT HERE TO HARM YOU.
I'VE JUST GOT SOME STUFF TO TELL YOU.
THUNK
SO DON'T MAKE A FUSS, YOU HEAR!?
I'M NOT GIVING UP THE GUN THOUGH, SO DON'T EVEN ASK
I DON'T WANNA GET CAUGHT JUST YET, SEE
WHAT...!?
O-OKAY
WH-WHERE'S HABU...?
NO IDEA
I PULLED OUT OF THAT GROUP
SO WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU HAVE TO TELL ME!?
WELL, Y'SEE
THAT GUY HABU HE'S PLANNING SOMETHING BIG
EH?
WH-WHAT KIND OF THING!?
NO ONE KNOWS THE DETAILS EXCEPT HABU AND THOSE CLOSEST TO HIM.
BUT IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO FIGURE IT'S SOME KIND OF TERRORIST ATTACK

THE GUY'S REALLY DANGEROUS, YOU KNOW.
HE'S BECOME EVEN MORE CRAZED AFTER GETTING SHOT BY YOU.
EH...
THEY STARTED OFF AS A POLITICAL GROUP, BUT NOW IT'S BECOME A GODDAMN CULT!
HOW... HOW BADLY WAS HABU INJURED!?
HUH?
NOTHING SERIOUS HE'S JUST GOT A BIG SCAR ON THAT PRETTY FACE OF HIS.
ANYWAY!
HE WAS A NASTY PIECE OF WORK TO BEGIN WITH, BUT NOW HE'S SO FAR GONE THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY CLEARER LEADS...?
IS HE THINKING OF BLOWING SOMETHING UP, OR...
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THE DETAILS.
ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS TO BE ON YOUR GUARD...
WH-WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS...?
NO CHOICE. YOU'RE THE ONLY COP I KNOW.
ANYWAY, I'VE SEEN ENOUGH BLOODSHED CAUSED BY THIS MEANINGLESS TERRORISM.
W-WHY DON'T YOU TURN YOURSELF IN?
I CAN TALK TO MY SUPERIORS.
PSH.
AS IF, ASSHOLE.
click

Slide
..
TRY ANYTHING FUNNY AND I'LL SHOOT YOU FROM BEHIND!
I'M GONNA RUN WHILE I STILL CAN
GO ON, GET OUT
...DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HIM, KIDDO
HUH...?
HABU, I MEAN...
WANTED TO SAY THANKS...
HAH!?
WELL... YOU CAME LOOKING FOR ME TO TELL ME ABOUT THIS, RIGHT?
U-UM...
WHAT?
I-I JUST...
HE'S SWORN TO SEE YOU DEAD

SLAM
WELL, I'M OFF
GOOD LUCK, OFFICER ASAOKA!
VROOM
He wants
to kill me...?
YOU STUPID IDIOT!!

I-I'M SORRY BUT...
IT WAS SO SUDDEN, I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING...
SO YOU LET HIM GET AWAY WHEN HE WAS RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE!?
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL YOUR TRAINING?
BAM
UM, SIR...? IS SOMETHING WRONG!?
AH, YOU THERE!
DO ME A FAVOUR AND GO CHECK IF THE CHIEF IS STILL IN
YES SIR!
FIND EVERYONE WHO'S STILL WORKING
TELL THEM TO MEET ME IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM RIGHT AWAY!
CLICK
U-UNDERSTOOD, SIR.
UM... DOES THAT INCLUDE ME?
OF COURSE YOU MORON!
GO WAIT IN THERE FOR EVERYONE.
GO ON, GET A MOVE ON!
Ah, man.

I wish TJ was here...

NOAKI-SAN?
ASAOKA-KUN
creak
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
OH... THE WEATHER WAS NICE, SO I WAS JUST GAZING OUT—
...DO YOU HAVE A SWEET TOOTH THEN, SIR?
smile
smile
YUP. BUT THE ONES YOU BUY IN SHOPS ARE SO FATTENING
rustle
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?
SIR?
THEY'RE OKARA* COOKIES.
T/N Soy pulp
SO I MADE THESE BY HAND.
ANY GOOD?
crunch
YEAH... THEY'RE GREAT

YOU MUST BE REALLY GOOD AT BAKING, SIR.
HEHE
DO YOU KNOW YOUR WAY ROUND THE KITCHEN, TOO?
NOT REALLY...
....
OH, YEAH...
BUT IT'S OKAY...
SIR?
...MUST BE TOUGH.
WELL YOU'VE GOT MIXED UP IN ALL SORTS OF THINGS LATELY, HAVEN'T YOU?
LOOKS LIKE HABU'S GOT HIS EYE ON YOU AS WELL NOW...
EVEN IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN, IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOT ANY FAMILY
WHICH KEEPS IT PRETTY SIMPLE
...THAT'S NOT A GOOD WAY TO THINK ABOUT IT
HEHE...

AND I'LL HAVE TO KEEP GOING BY MYSELF, TOO...
BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE
BESIDES, ZERO UNIT NEEDS OFFICERS WITHOUT ANY ATTACHMENTS
...HAVEN'T YOU MADE UP WITH NISHIKIORI YET?
NO...
BUT HE HASN'T BEEN AROUND IN A WHILE, SO...
I GUESS
THE CHIEF'S TAKEN A LIKING TO HIM, SO HE'S GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO
YEAH...
IT'S A SHAME WHEN I THINK HOW INNOCENT AND CUTE YOU ALL LOOKED WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED...
YOU THINK, SIR?
REALLY?
I GUESS THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED WITH A TOUGH JOB LIKE THAT.
THAT BOY'S LOST A LOT OF HIS CAREFREE SPIRIT...

L-LISTEN, ASAOKA-KUN
I LIM
..
AH!
LOOKS LIKE LUNCH BREAK IS OVER AL-READY
~~~~
OH, ER
I-IT'S NOTHING
YOU WERE SAYING, SIR?
BYE, THEN
SOB
OKAY
SEE YOU LATER, SIR
STEP
STEP
STEP
SNIFF
~~~~

I'm used to being alone.
Yeah
So
I'll be fine
carrying on by myself...

I SEE YOU'VE RETURNED IN ONE PIECE.
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, SIR.
TAKANO-SAN!
THANKS...
SORRY THAT I WAS GONE FOR SO LONG...
...HAVE YOU BEEN BRIEFED ON THE SITUATION WITH HABU...?
UM... I'M ALSO A BIT WORRIED ABOUT ASAOKA-KUN...
WELL, YOU SEE...
WHAT?
LATELY, HE JUST HASN'T BEEN HIMSELF.
THE CHIEF CLERK SUGGESTED HE SHOULD SEE THE COUNSELLOR, BUT HE REFUSED.
...
YEAH...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S KEEPING A LOW PROFILE FOR NOW...
THAT'S RIGHT.

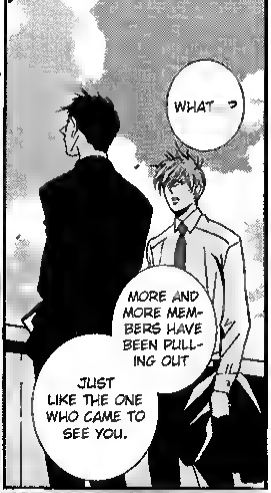
AND NOW HE KEEPS BEING DRAGGED INTO MORE TROUBLE
MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE A WORD WITH HIM, SIR?
I SEE...
ALRIGHT
I'LL TALK WITH HIM.
THANK YOU, SIR.
NISHI-KIORI.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE ASAOKA IS?
N-NO...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.
ONLY COPY WHAT YOU NEED!
U-UM...
HM?
IT'S TJ
OH... HE'S NOT AT HIS DESK, EITHER
EH...
MAYBE...

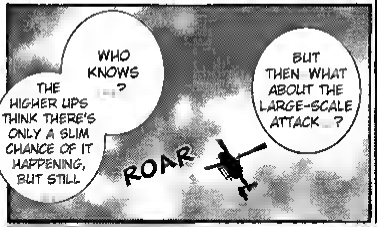
I SEE.
THANKS.
HE MIGHT BE ON THE ROOFTOP
HE'S UP THERE A LOT THESE DAYS...
CLOSE
SHINO.
!

EH...?
S-SIR!?
DON'T LEAN TOO FAR OUT. OR YOU'LL FALL.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
WEL...
WELCOME BACK...
THANKS. SORRY I WAS GONE SO LONG.
Y-YOU'RE BACK?
ER, I-I MEAN, YOU'VE RETURNED, SIR!?
HEH...
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE FORMAL WHEN THERE'S NO ONE ELSE AROUND.
~~~
...
gaze
WHAT?
~~~

I-I'M SO SORRY
F-FOR WHAT HAP-PENED BE-FORE. I WAS OUT OF LINE...
WELL,
WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT SOME OTHER TIME
I-I'M SORRY FOR SKIPPING WORK
I'LL GET BACK TO MY DESK
WAIT. I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU.
HUH...?
IT'S ABOUT HABU
LOOKS LIKE YOU KEEP BEING DRAWN INTO HIS CASE.
AH... YES...
WELL, NO MATTER
THAT GROUP OF HIS WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER, ANYWAY.

YEAH.
IT OFTEN HAPPENS WHEN THEY'RE LED BY SUCH A DICTATORIAL BOSS
R-REALLY...?


WHAT...?
MORE AND MORE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PULLING OUT
JUST LIKE THE ONE WHO CAME TO SEE YOU.


WHO KNOWS...?
THE HIGHER UPS THINK THERE'S ONLY A SLIM CHANCE OF IT HAPPENING, BUT STILL
BUT THEN WHAT ABOUT THE LARGE-SCALE ATTACK...?
ROAR

IT'S GOING TO GET BUSY FROM HERE ON, SHINO.
NOTHING'S EVER 100% CERTAIN.
SO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE WORST CASE SCENARIO.
OURS IS A TOUGH JOB THAT OFTEN GOES UNREWARDED.
BUT I HOPE YOU'RE AWARE
OF HOW ESSENTIAL OUR WORK IS?

I SEE...
GOOD BOY.
YES, SIR...
NO?
BUT YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR TEENS, AREN'T YOU?
I've seen a lotsa adult actors who're younger than me, sir.
...PLEASE DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A LITTLE KID.
—SO, DO WE KNOW ANY MORE ABOUT HABU'S WHEREABOUTS?
SMIRK
NO, SIR...
THEY'RE LOOKING AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY.
HM...
What's behind that defiant smile...!? Look forward to the next instalment!!
To be continued.